

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01958 071006Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
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O R 070927Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7499
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1958

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS XF LE UN
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON: AIRLIFT OF NEPALESE TROOPS

REF: STATE 089601 (DTG 070234Z APR 78)

1. CALLED FONMIN BOUTROS THIS MORNING, FOLLOWING RECEIPT
REFTEL AND ASKED WHETHER GOL HAD REACHED CONCLUSION ON
DESIRABILITY OF BRINGING NEPALESE INTO RAYAK IN ORDER
GO SOUTH FROM THERE WITH LEBANESE TROOPS IN BEKAA. HE
SAID HE HAD MENTIONED MATTER TO SIILASVUO LAST MONDAY
AND THIS WAS FIRST SIILASVUO HAD HEARD OF IT. HE ASKED
THAT WE HAVE DATT DISCUSS WITH GEN. KHOURY (WHICH HE WILL
DO THIS MORNING) AND SAID THAT ONCE MILITARY JUDGEMENT
MADE, THEY WOULD HAVE TO TAKE POLITICAL DECISION.

2. OUR READING IS THAT RAYAK IS OPERATIONAL AND THAT
AIRLIFT OF NEPALESE THERE IS FEASIBLE. THERE ARE CERTAIN
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 01958 071006Z

OBVIOUS COORDINATING PROBLEMS WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE
DEALT WITH, HOWEVER, AREA AROUND RAYK IS CONTROLLED
BY ARAB DETERRENT FORCES AND PASSAGE TO SOUTH WILL HAVE
TO BE WORKED OUT WITH THEM AS WELL AS WITH PALESTINIANS
NORTH OF HASBAYYA. IT WILL ALSO HAVE TO BE CLEAR THAT
LEBANESE WILL HAVE FORCE READY TO MOVE WHEN NEPALESE
ARRIVE. IT SEEMS TO US THAT THIS COORDINATION SHOULD BE

RESPONSIBILITY OF UNIFIL AND THAT IN FIRST INSTANCE WE SHOULD GET READING FROM SIILASVUO AND ERSKINE AS TO WHETHER THEY THINK IDEA IS GOOD BECAUSE IF THEY ARE NOT FOR IT, IT WILL NOT WORK. SUGGEST JERUSALEM RAISE WITH SIILASVUO.

3. SURVEY TEAM GOING TO RAYAK TOMORROW (APRIL 8) AND WE WILL BE ABLE COMMENT MORE AUTHORITATIVELY ON READINESS OF LEBANESE AFTER THAT.

4. WHETHER SUCH AN OPERATION WOULD AFFECT NUMBER OF LAF TROOPS SENT SOUTH, THE SPEED OF DISPATCH AND THE DEGREE OF CERTAINTY THAT THEY WOULD GO IS HARD TO SAY CATEGORICALLY. CERTAINLY IT WOULD ENCOURAGE THEM TO FACE THE OBSTACLES POSED BY THE PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN THE SOUTHERN BEKAA. WE DOUBT IT WOULD INCREASE THE NUMBER AVAILABLE, BUT IT MIGHT SPEED UP THEIR DEPARTURE AND MAKE IT MORE CERTAIN. WILL HAVE TO WITHHOLD FINAL JUDGEMENT IN THIS REGARD UNTIL AFTER SURVEY TEAM VISITS RAYAK.

5. BELIEVE LEBANESE WOULD POSE NO OBJECTION TO SITE SURVEY BY AIR FORCE EXPERT.

PARKER

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